CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Observations at the Port of Durres	DATE DISTR. 25 october NO. OF PAGES	1954 25 X 1
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- 1. An Albentan dock worker, to whom informant had offered some matches and digarettes, told him that a project to re-activate the petroleus handling equipment at the docks of Durres has been approved. This equipment is expected to be in operating condition sometime in 1955.
- 2. Two additional dock cranes of Polish make are expected to be in full operating condition in 1955. With the installation of these two cranes, there will be six dock cranes to handle cargo operations: Two cranes at dock No. 1, two cranes at dock No. 2 and two cranes at dock No. 3.
- 3. Mineral deposits containing a high percentage of what the Albanians call trunkh (copper) have been found near the Yugoslav border. Samples of the one were analysed in Albania by Soviet technicians; however, because only crude equipment was available to make the analysis, specimens were sent to the Soviet Union to determine the value of the ore.
- 4. On 24 July 1954, at 5:00 p.m., approximately 30 young women arrived at the docks to load chrome one on carts which were then loaded aboard ship. They worked for two hours in refilling the carts with chrone one. Some used shovels and others had to use their hands because there were not enough shovels available. Women workers must "volunteer" two hours of work on Saturdays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Albanian Workers Party. Absence from work, (in unloading or loading ship's cargo?) including holidays, is punishable by a fine from 400 to 500 leks.
- 5. In the city of Durres, many children were afflicted with typhus. Antibacterial drugs such as penicillin and streptomycin are not available. One of the dock workers asked for drugs; any type of drug which we might have available. A worker was given some streptomycin because his son was gravely ill. Food is very scarce and what is available is not very wholesome.
- 6. On 27 July 1954, at 8:30 a.m. gun firing exercises were heard inland from the docks. The fixing was from small arms and ended at 9:15 a.m. At approximately 10:00 a.m. cannon firing was heard at 5 minute intervals until it stopped at 12:30 y.m.

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